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# Contaminant tests begin at old tip site

BY HEATHER  
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**CONTAMINANT** testing on the former tip site at Wentworth Park on Hobart's Eastern Shore has begun.

Environment Minister Judy Jackson said the State Government had arranged for the work to be done to address community concerns.

"The community will be kept informed as the site assessment works progress," she said.

Howrah resident Poppy Lopatniuk went public with her concerns about the Howrah landfill site in April.

Mrs Lopatniuk, who lived near the tip when it was in use in the '60s, compiled a list of 21 people who she feared

may have been victims of contamination from living close to the site.

All 21 people on the list, including her son Peter Lopatniuk, had died from cancer or other serious illnesses.

She said she had been calling for testing at Wentworth Park for five years, but the Government had "turned a blind eye to it".

Even after Mrs Lopatniuk took her story to the media, Ms Jackson initially refused to order tests on the site.

"You can't keep on investigating something forever," Ms Jackson said during an interview outside Parliament House in April.

Department of Primary Industries, Water

and Environment senior environmental officer Coleen Cole said independent consultants

URS Australia Pty Ltd were currently drilling the site to take samples.

"They will be analysed for a variety of contaminants," she said.

Ms Cole said URS would finish taking its first round of samples today and return in another few weeks to take more samples.

The company's final report would be done within three to four months and would be made available to the public, she said.

Liberal MHA Will Hodgman described the Government's sluggish approach to testing the site as "disgraceful".



**SOIL SAMPLES:** Environmental scientist Katharine Connor from URS Australia works yesterday at the old tip site at Wentworth Park. Picture: EDDIE SAFARI